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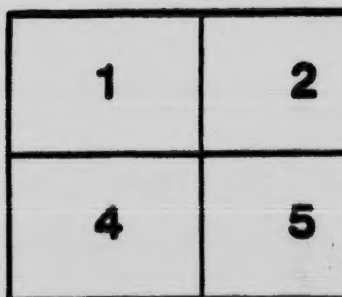
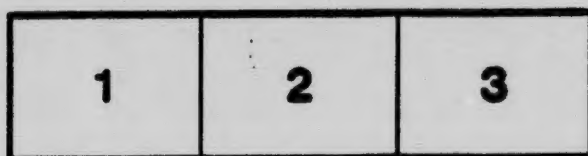
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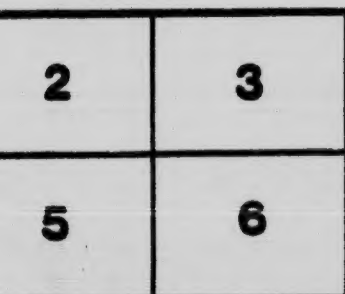
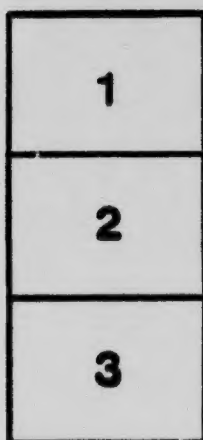
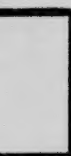
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Hodgins, James C.

The Attitude of the Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen on the Tariff.

BY JAMES COBOURG HODGINS

The whole aim and object of those in charge of the Liberal propaganda in this, as in previous campaigns, is to convey the idea that Arthur Meighen is a rabid high-tariff man. He is nothing of the sort. **He is a sane-tariff man.** He is a protectionist, not only as a personal conviction, but because he realizes that the whole development of the civilized world of recent years has been in the direction of higher tariffs. He does not believe that a young nation like Canada, with incalculable natural resources and needing only capital and population to bound ahead, could possibly survive under a low tariff in competition with industrial giants like Britain, Germany, the United States and Japan. His position is, that Canada is in no position to go counter to a universal tendency. As he has frequently pointed out even in Great Britain the classic home of the doctrine of free entry a profound change has been wrought in public sent ...

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by the obvious prosperity and higher standard of living which obtain in the protected countries. The result, as we know, of this new, and to Britons startling knowledge, has been the reimposition of the so-called McKenna Duties. And not a moment too soon, for the British manufacturers saw with dismay that, not only could Germany, the United States and Japan meet them in the foreign field, but they were actually challenging them in their home territory. Canada, it is his sound contention, cannot afford to go counter to a universal tendency.

But Mr. Meighen is not a bigot or a fanatic even in economic matters. His fundamental position is that Canada, at the present time, should have a tariff which should be just to all classes of the population. The person he keeps continually in his mind's eye, and in his heart, is the average decent Canadian. He is determined that the standard of living in this country shall not be lowered to the European or Asiatic level. He believes in a protection which will protect, not only the capitalist who sinks his money in manufacturing enterprises, but which will insure to the worker adequate wages and continuous employment. Whatever degree of protection may be necessary to guarantee an adequate return to capital, generous wages to labor and stimulus to engage in new undertakings that the party he leads is prepared to grant. And the last is perhaps the most important of all since Canada is

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literally stagnating for want of fresh capital. "The field is white unto the harvest." Let capitalists once understand that their undertakings will be safely guarded by a just tariff and hundreds of millions of capital will flow in our direction.

Neither Mr. Meighen, nor the members of the Conservative party, believe in a tariff so designed as to benefit only the capitalist. A tariff which is absurdly high leads to exploitation of the public; a tariff which is too low results in unemployment, emigration and financial ruin. But a tariff which is just to capital and just to the workingman will be just to the general public, since in the prosperity produced the whole nation including the farmers is bound to share. The more there is produced the more there will be to divide.

Arthur Meighen's faith in the ability of the Canadian people to manufacture on the spot what is needed on the spot is unshakeable. He is profoundly convinced that there is no reason unaccounted for why Canadians, with illimitable natural resources, a bracing climate and a happy geographical position should not supply all their needs and go out into the world and get their fair share of trade. He sees no reason why a clever people should allow other clever people to make for them what they are quite capable of making for themselves. He recognizes quite clearly too, that agriculture is as much entitled to protection as manu-

facturing, and he has put himself on record to this effect. Himself a son of the soil he understands as few Prime Ministers ever have the farmer's needs. He is the first farmer's son to achieve the premiership. It is the true and lasting prosperity of the average consumer that Mr. Meighen desires, believing, as he does, most fervently, that, if all share on just terms in the prosperity of the country the miserable sectionalism which has cursed us ever since the late corrupt, unpatriotic and inefficient group got into power will disappear and the exiles who were driven out of the land they have never ceased to love will return in hundreds of thousands.

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